

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A facility searching device comprising:

a database related to map information;

a facility database related to various genres of facilities, the database including positional information of each of the genres of facilities;

a display unit adapted to display a map for a predetermined area on the basis of the map information;

a pointing device for implementing a positional input on a displayed map;

a voice input unit adapted to implement voice input;

a first decision unit adapted to decide whether or not a word inputted by the voice input unit falls under a genre name indicating a genre to which any facility in the facility database belongs;

a second decision unit adapted to decide whether or not an input of a plurality of positions indicating a certain road on the map has been made as the positional input; and

a search unit adapted to respond to that an affirmative decision by the first decision unit and an affirmative decision by the second decision unit have been made within a predetermined time to implement a search for facilities which belong to the genre and which exist along the road or within a predetermined distance from the road,

wherein the input of a plurality of positions is an operation for moving a point position by the pointing device which pointing on the map, and

wherein the search decision unit is made an affirmative decision if the plurality of positions are within a predetermined distance from the road.

24. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, further comprising an unit for acquiring a current position of the facility searching device, wherein the search unit operates to implement the search for facilities on a current position basis on the basis of the inputted genre name if an affirmative decision by the first decision unit has been made without involving the positional input within the predetermined time.

25. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, further comprising a third decision unit for deciding whether only one position is inputted as a positional input if the positional input within the predetermined time and an affirmative decision by the first decision unit, wherein if an affirmative decision by the third decision unit is made, the search unit operates to implement the search for facilities on the one position basis on the basis of the inputted genre name.

26. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, wherein the second decision unit operates to make an affirmative decision when the plurality of positions exist within a predetermined distance from the road and a lastly inputted position of the plurality of positions exist on the road.

27. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, further comprising a fourth decision unit for deciding whether or not a plurality of positions indicating a certain area on the map as a positional input if the positional input within the predetermined time and an affirmative decision have been made, wherein if an affirmative decision by the fourth decision unit has been made, the search unit operates

to implement the search for facilities included in the certain area on the basis of the inputted genre name.

28. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, further comprising a fifth decision unit for deciding whether or not a plurality of positions on the map are inputted as a positional input and the plurality of positions indicate no road and area on the map, if the positional input within the predetermined time and an affirmative decision by the first decision unit, wherein if an affirmative decision has been made by the fifth decision unit, the search unit operates to implement the search for facilities using as a basis a position intermediate between firstly and lastly inputted positions of the plurality of positions on the basis of the inputted genre name.

29. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, wherein the input of the plurality of positions is performed by a drag operation.

30. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, further comprising a sixth decision unit for deciding whether or not an input tracing a single road or a plurality of roads intersecting or connected with each other on the map has been made as a positional input by the pointing device if the positional input within the predetermined time and an affirmative decision by the first decision unit have been made, wherein if an affirmative decision by the sixth decision unit has been made, the search unit operates to search for facilities on the basis of the inputted genre name, the facilities being along the one or plurality of roads or existing within a predetermined distance from the one or plurality of roads.

31. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, the search for the facilities existing along the roads or within a distance from the roads is implemented in a range from a beginning position to an end position of the tracing input.

32. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, further comprising an input decision unit for deciding whether an input of only two positions by a first pointing operation and a second pointing operation made within a predetermined time from the first pointing operation if the positional input within the predetermined time and an affirmative decision by the first decision unit and a seventh decision unit for deciding whether or not the two positions are on an identical road if it has been made that the input of only two positions has been made by the input decision unit, wherein if an affirmative decision has been made by the seventh decision unit, the search unit operates to implement the search for the facilities existing along the road or within a predetermined distance from the road on the basis of the inputted genre name.

33. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 32, wherein the search for the facilities existing along the road or with a predetermined distance from the road is implemented in an area between the two positions.

34. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 32, wherein if a negative decision has been made by the seventh decision unit, the search unit operates to implement the search for facilities on an intermediate position basis for the two positions on the basis of the inputted genre name.

35. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, further comprising an eighth decision unit for deciding whether or not an input of three or more positions by three or more pointing operations has successively made without leaving time spaces more than a predetermined time if the positional input within a predetermined time and an affirmative decision by the first decision unit have been made, wherein if an affirmative decision has been made by the eighth decision unit, the search unit operates to implement the search for facilities existing a triangular area or a

polygonal area having its vertexes three or more positions on the basis of the inputted genre name.

36. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, wherein the voice input unit shifts to an input acceptable state, in which an input of a genre name by voice can be accepted, in response to the input of a position on the displayed map.

37. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 36, wherein the shift to the input acceptable state is performed after outputting a predetermined voice in response to the input of the position.

38. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, wherein if the number of facilities searched by the search unit is more than a predetermined number, a voice for prompting to make a voice input of a name for narrowing a searching range is outputted, and the voice input of the name is accepted to narrow the searching range.

39. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, if a word inputted by the input unit falls under a word indicating a predetermined utilization purpose, wherein the first decision unit operates to regard the input as being an input of a predetermined plurality of genre names corresponding to the utilization purpose and make an affirmative decision.

40. (New) The facility searching device according to claim 23, wherein the search for the facilities existing along the road or within a predetermined distance from the road is implemented within an area of the roads that are displayed by the display unit.

41. (New) A navigation device which has the facility searching device recited in any of claims 23 to 40 and which shares a map database of the facility searching device.

42. (New) A computer readable medium storing a program, the program causing a computer to function as the first decision unit and search unit recited in any of claims 23 to 40.

43. (New) A facility searching method to be performed by a computer having a map database for map information and a facility database including positional information of each of various genres of facilities, the facility searching method comprising the steps of:

displaying on a display unit a map for a predetermined area on the basis of the map database;

accepting an input for positions on the displayed map via a pointing device;

accepting an input by voice;

deciding firstly whether or not a word inputted by the voice input unit falls under a genre name indicating a genre to which any facility in the facility database belongs;

deciding secondly whether or not an input of a plurality of positions indicating a certain road on the map has been made as the positional input; and

searching facilities which belong to a genre and which exist along the road or within a predetermined distance from the road, in response to that an affirmative decision by the first decision unit and an affirmative decision by the second decision unit have been made within a predetermined time,

wherein the input of a plurality of positions is an operation for moving a point position by the pointing device which pointing on the map, and

wherein the search decision step is made an affirmative decision if the plurality of positions are within a predetermined distance from the road.